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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Attention is called to the address* delivered by Fred Oelsner at a special ceremony in Gotha on 24 May 1950, and published in Neues Deutschland on 25 May. As Oelsner is now the leading theoretician of the SED, and as he is the closest friend of Walter Ulbricht, his statements usually warrant serious study. The fact that the SED through one of its most prominent spokesmen announces that it has abandoned the concept of attaining socialism through democratic means, and that only revolutionary methods will enable them to reach that goal, is believed to be most significant.
2. Polit/Kultur functionaries at a Party cell meeting in May showed great embarrassment when an official raised the question whether the threat of resorting to revolutionary methods is not in fact the underlying purpose of East German rearmament.
3. It may be pointed out again that, since the KPD in West Germany is avowedly a branch of the SED, controlled and centrally guided by the Politburo of the SED, any policy adopted by the SED applies equally to the KPD.

Comment: For the benefit of those who may not have seen the text of Calssner's speech, the following summary is given:

In his address Oelssner inveighs against the "theory" of the special German road to socialism, a heresy to which Anton Ackermann once succumbed. Harking back to the first Party (Unity) Conference of the SED in 1946 which passed a resolution titled "Principles and Aims", Oelssner complains that the perfectly intelligible sentence: "The basic prerequisite to the founding of a socialist society is the assumption of political power by the working class" has been deliberately misconstrued in an "opportunistic" sense not intended. The political power of the working class, he points out, is in no way distinguished from the dictatorship of the proletariat as imposed by Stalin and Lenin in 1917 in Russia. To believe that Germany could follow its own special way in arriving at a socialist order, dispensing with a dictatorship of the proletariat, is a deviationist concept. The wrong interpretation, Oelssner concedes, has been supported by another sentence contained in "Principles and Aims": "The SED aspires towards the democratic way to socialism; it will, however, resort to revolutionary means once

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the capitalist class places itself beyond the pale of democracy" (wenn die kapitalistische Klasse den Boden der Demokratie verlässt). This sentence, Gellssner states flatly, is untrue because:

- a. It is incorrect to contrast the democratic way and revolutionary methods. There is no more democratic act than the masses' taking their fate into their own hands as they did in the October Revolution, which was the most democratic revolution in world history.
- b. It is incorrect to assume that socialism could be attained through the employment of non-revolutionary methods, because it involves a fundamental change in property rights, methods of production (capitalist exploitation), etc.

Gellssner points out that all matters of doubt still remaining have to be obliterated once the new Party statute has been passed. The Politburo draft clearly states in a preamble that "The Party in all its activities is guided by the theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin.